

# 2021 ELECTION CANDIDATES



CSWE Board of Directors

## Chair-elect

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***Golam Mathbor, PhD, MSW***

*Professor, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ*

I am honored to be nominated to serve as chair-elect of the CSWE Board of Directors. I bring to this position a commitment to advancing social work education through collaborative leadership; shared governance; international partnerships; antiracism; diversity; equity and inclusion; human rights; and social, economic, and environmental justice. I am currently serving my fourth term as commissioner of the CSWE International/Global Social Work Education. Over the course of my involvement in CSWE, I contributed to transforming the International Commission to Global Social Work Education Commission, assisted in establishing KAKI, helped launch and chair the PIE Awards for 3 consecutive years, served as a reviewer and track chair, organizer and presenter in partnership/connect sessions, and I have chaired the Hokenstad Lecture since 2019.

My dedication to social work education is reflected in my teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate levels for 22 years in the United States and 10 years in Austria, Canada, Kosovo, Latvia, and Bangladesh. I bring a deep sensitivity and responsiveness to multiple forms of diversities. In addition to 32 years as a social work educator, I have served in leadership and administrative roles at local, regional, national, and international levels that all have prepared me for the responsibilities of the position.

My work fully aligns with the vision and mission of CSWE. As chair elect, I will lead CSWE in partnerships, locally and globally, and ensure the accreditation and reaccreditation of programs that enhance the quality and credibility of the discipline and the profession. Increasing membership, from the new initiate to the seasoned academic, would be a priority during my tenure. As a skilled orator, listener, mediator, and leader, I will bring together CSWE, NASW, and IASSW/IFSW/ICSW to coalesce around common agendas for social work education and social development, and I will ensure that all voices are heard.



***Hilary Weaver, DSW, MSW***

*Associate Dean and Professor, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY*

Serving as vice chair/secretary of the board, I have a clear understanding of the needs and priorities of CSWE and am well suited to the challenges of board leadership at this crossroads. We must be attuned to our members' needs as they grapple with providing education during the COVID-19 pandemic, on-going injustice for racialized and marginalized people, and a divided political climate. I am committed to strengthening relationships between the board and staff and ensuring board members understand their roles and responsibilities, thus enhancing board productivity. I have been a proud social worker for decades and was recently inducted into the NASW Social Work Pioneers program as someone "whose unique

dedication, commitment, and determination have improved social and human conditions.” I want to bring this vision and promote these principles within CSWE.

I have experience on multiple national, state, and local boards, including serving as chair. I have experience facilitating meetings, representing agencies to the public, responding to emerging priorities, and working closely with executive directors. I am skilled at bringing together people from different perspectives to work toward common goals, while ensuring people feel heard and valued. These leadership skills help boards and the organizations they oversee increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

CSWE is the infrastructure that supports, guides, and nurtures social work educators and programs. We must be responsive to members’ needs and attuned to an ever-changing environment. Beyond anticipating trends, we must actively shape the environment according to our professional values and priorities. We must support creation and delivery of explicit and implicit curricula that highlight social justice and human rights. We must provide nurturing spaces for our members to exchange ideas, become energized, experience renewal, and gain inspiration. We must support educators to grow their careers, enhance their skills, and transform our profession.

## Vice Chair/Secretary

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### **Manoj Pardasani, PhD, MSW**

*Dean and Professor, Adelphi University, Garden City, New York*

I am a dean and professor at the Adelphi University School of Social Work in New York. I previously served as a faculty member and senior associate dean at the Graduate School of Social Service at Fordham University.

Having transferred to academia from the practice world, I gained unique insights into the need to prepare impactful professionals, thinkers, and leaders. Briefly, I served as an associate provost for professional education, which gave me a comprehensive perspective on the mission, values, and goals of professional education. Now, as the dean of a School of Social Work, I understand the need to strengthen and innovate social work education while making it more responsive to the ever-changing social context. This is what I believe to be a critical purpose of the Board of Directors at CSWE.

In addition to being a long-term member of CSWE, I have served as a member and chair of the National Nominating Committee for CSWE. In this role, I helped identify and introduce future leaders to CSWE and the wider SW education arena. I worked tirelessly to recruit candidates from underrepresented groups and facilitated their development as leaders. I have also served as a board member and 1st vice president of the New York City Chapter of NASW. At NASW I helped to advocate for the needs of our profession, promote social justice, and inclusiveness, while building strong partnerships with academia.

Having served as a chair or president of national and regional organizations, I understand the responsibilities and commitment such a position requires. As this world evolves rapidly, it is imperative for us educators to transform our educational curricula and practices, so that our graduates can be

effective, and our profession can remain relevant, nimble, and strong. It would be my honor to serve on this board.



**Halaevalu Vakalahi, PhD, M Ed, MSW**

*Dean and Professor, Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu, HI*

A vision to ensure well-prepared professionals and leaders, a mission to advance excellence and innovation in education and research, and an acknowledgement of our residence on ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples—these commitments have sparked my interest in pursuing an opportunity to serve on the CSWE Board of Directors.

I am a Pacific Islander-American woman blessed with the love of family and friends, unwavering support of mentors and colleagues, and a faith that actualized what has been seemingly impossible in my life. Indeed, blessed by the generous investment of many, I am currently a professor and the dean of the College of Health and Society at Hawai'i Pacific University. Throughout my career, I have contributed to cultivating safe spaces for academic-community interaction, preparing a competitive future workforce, and nurturing global citizens who are responsive to shifting economies and cultural demographics. I bring to the table over two decades of transferrable experiences in six dynamic universities, professional organizations, and communities that have offered clarity to my purpose in the academy. As an educator, scholar, and leader, my work has been framed by a deep commitment to social and economic justice.

Reflecting on the current pandemic, social movements, and recent political outcomes, I have learned much about myself, my fellow humans, this beautiful earth, and what we are capable of and responsible for. So, moving forward, among so many possibilities, I envision CSWE engaging in reimagining 21st century social work education (and perhaps 22nd century social work); increasing representation of women in social work in executive leadership positions across societal systems; leading in areas of interprofessional education and environmental justice and sustainability; and leveraging social work research and technological advancements to increase the value of cultural and community assets. To dwelling in possibilities!

## Graduate Faculty Representative (Open Position 1 of 2)

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**Debra Lavender-Bratcher, DHS, MSW**

*Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX*

I believe in the future of social work; therefore, I am seeking the graduate faculty representative position. I want to help our students—future master level social workers—not only prepare them for the present but also to develop a viable road map to the future. Along with developing a multitude of social work skills, we also need to address best practices for the future utilizing technology, to address changing demographics in our value laden society. I want to be part of the solution regarding how we are engaging student education through CSWE.

The skills and strengths I bring to this position include having over 20 years' experience in social work practice, in the fields of child protection, addiction recovery, family, and children counseling; developing

social work counseling programs for adolescents with emotional disorders; and preschool programs with children who experience emotional trauma. I have been teaching for over 15 years and teach in the master of social work program at Texas Tech University since its inception in 2015. I have taught various classes in the MSW program. I am the advisor to the graduate social work student organization and engage students in service learning. My pedagogy includes addressing issues of systemic and anti-Black racism, utilizing concepts of antiracism to enhance collaboration and allyships.

Labor statistics predict the social work profession will grow 13% by the year 2029. My vision is to help CSWE build the bridge to the future social work. We are in a rapidly changing environment, and our students are “woke” to the rapid changes and influences regarding technology, demographics, and value laden environments. I would like to be part of developing that futuristic road map that will influence the profession of social work.



***Randy Nedegaard, PhD, MSW***

*Associate Professor, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA*

I believe graduate social work programs are the cornerstone for producing the next generation of social work leadership, and there is a strong need to enhance the social work curriculum through multicultural embeddedness while creating educational environments that promote a deeper understanding of issues of social justice.

I currently teach at California State University, Fresno, a designated Hispanic and Hmong-serving Institution where the majority are first generation college students who have experienced multiple barriers in their efforts to receive an education. I have also taught at Sitting Bull College of the Standing Rock Reservation through a University of North Dakota (UND) partnership. It is through these teaching efforts that I witnessed firsthand the impact of historical and continued trauma that systemic racism places on populations and communities. These experiences have humbled me and taught me to be an advocate for diverse and oppressed students, faculty, and communities in their fight.

I recognize the need to decolonize curricula, and I recognize the content that goes into curricula to empower historically marginalized communities lies within them, yet the efforts to make a change should not be placed on impacted communities themselves. Unpacking and dismantling efforts need strong allies. It is this passion that drives me to run to be part of the Board of Directors.

Administratively, I currently serve as the curriculum chair and the assessment coordinator. I also served as the graduate program director at UND for 5 years and am an alumnus of the inaugural CSWE Program Director Academy. My practice background includes serving as a behavioral health clinician and an administrator for 20+ years. My vision for social work education is curricula that reflects the diversity of the populations that we serve that is truly social justice focused, empowering the students and communities that we serve.



**Kelly Bass, DSW, MSW**

*Graduate Program Director, Associate Professor, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD*

I am humbled to be a candidate for this leadership opportunity as I believe engaging in local, state, and national positions is one of the most critical elements in giving to one's profession. I have had the privilege of being involved in social work education for the past 10 years.

During this time, I have taught at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, served as a faculty field instructor for BSW and MSW students and as department chair of a social work program, and currently as the director of a master's of social work program. Most recently, I am an active member of CSWE serving as a certified site visitor, NCNLI Region alternate, supporting author of two CSWE curricular guides, and provide supervision to postgraduate social workers. The combination of these experiences has taught me the value of our profession, the importance of social work education, and the need for strong leadership.

My vision for CSWE is that it continues to lead our profession by supporting social work programs in preparing students for practice through accreditation standards. I believe serving as the graduate program representative can provide a platform for me to further this dialogue. I am running for the graduate program representative position for the Board of Directors to continue my work in promoting excellence and quality social work education. Thank you for your support!



**Vanessa Robinson-Dooley, LCSW, CNP**

*Associate Professor, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA*

I am honored to be nominated for the CSWE Board of Directors. I have served on the BOD as a graduate faculty representative, member of the Awards Committee, and currently chair of the Awards Committee. I am hoping to serve a second term and continue the work of the Board.

As a graduate faculty representative on the Board of Directors, I want to continue to assist with development of policies that impact social work programs. As the primary resource bank for social work programs, I want to invest my time in working to advocate for the needs of these programs and assist with ensuring they have access to current information. It is through this information that we can assist them with meeting any programmatic, teaching, and research needs.

I have been an active member of CSWE since my doctoral education days. I have previously served as the co-chair of the Council on Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural Diversity, as an accreditation site visitor, as a member of Black Educators, and I am a proud Minority Fellowship Program alumna. I have served on several nonprofit boards and I bring to this board my skills of organizing, ensuring everyone has a "voice," and my ability to work with multiple interests, making me ideal for this position. I believe we can accomplish much through collaboration and open discussions. My vision for CSWE is continuing to support the work of the council in "providing leadership, ensuring quality in teaching and learning, and strengthening the capacity of our member institutions" (CSWE Mission) with a goal of *inclusiveness* of those who want to have a voice in the direction of social work education. I will continue to support this and be a part of the changes and improvements that can result from this work.

## Undergraduate Faculty Representative

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**Paul Mackie, PhD, MSW**

*Undergraduate Program Director and Professor, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN*

My interest is grounded in a passion to give back to our field. In over 16 years as a social work educator, I have taught policy, research, communities, and organizations at undergraduate and graduate levels, and appreciate how important these areas are to understanding how changing and improving systems positively changes lives.

My knowledge, skills, and abilities are unique in that I'm informed by a rural background. Ranging from growing up on a Michigan dairy farm to having lived and worked in rural Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, I understand unique educational and social service concerns facing rural communities. My passion for rural advocacy has been further developed as past-president and current board member of the National Association for Rural Mental Health, through scholarship and research, and teaching. Additionally, I served 5 years as the university assessment coordinator at my current university. In this capacity, I developed a deeper understanding and appreciation for student learning assessment at the local, regional, and national levels. This experience may prove valuable as CSWE continues to work toward further developing effective assessments and assist in future EPAS developments in this area. I also service my current program as the undergraduate program director and led the program through two successful reaffirmation cycles, most recently in October of 2020.

My vision for CSWE and social work education is to further grow and develop our field in ways that support greater human growth, inclusiveness, diversity, and healing, with an emphasis on rural communities. I am also excited to further assist our discipline in the growth and development of new and innovative ways to assess and evaluate our effectiveness, and how these efforts transfer to better supporting and advancing the lives of our students, who in turn will strengthen and improve the lives of others.



**Patricia Saleeby, PhD, MSSA**

*Bradley University, Undergraduate Program Director and Associate Professor*

I am honored to be running for the position as the undergraduate program director representative to the CSWE Board of Directors.

I am a proud alumna of Washington University (PhD) and Case Western Reserve University (MSSA). I have been a faculty member for over 15 years teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels. I am the program director at Bradley University having served 3 years as the program director at SIU-C. As an active and engaged member of CSWE for nearly 20 years, I have served in multiple leadership positions including former CSWE Board member, chair of the Commission for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice, and chair of the Council on Disability and Persons With Disabilities. I helped to launch the Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice as a member of its Steering Committee. Currently, I am completing a term as a member of the Commission on Global Social Work Education. And I was a member of the National Task Force who developed the *Curricular Guide for Environmental Justice*.

I am interested in serving because I care deeply about the future of our social work profession. I want to use my practice-based experiences and leadership skills to enhance the profession of social work, to collaborate with other disciplines in improving social work education, and to address the unique and diverse needs of our social work undergraduate programs. Through my service on the Board, I will help CSWE move forward in addressing local, national, and global social work issues that affect our faculty and students.

## Practice Representative

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***Mavis Major, PhD, LCSW***

*Behavioral Health Therapist, Renown Regional Medical Center, Reno, NV*

It is my honor to share with you my passion which led my quest to seek the position of CSWE Board of Directors practice representative. I have devoted my life to empowering social work students to reach their academic dreams. I believe my years of experience in academia and practice have prepared me to serve as the practice representative. My role as social work practitioner/academician has been an important distinction within my professional career. Being a contributor to the development of the next generation of social work practitioners and scholars is a role I do not take lightly. From my years as an undergraduate at Oakwood University, my foundation as a social worker commenced. I realized through that experience the importance of mentorship. I matriculated to San Diego State University to obtain my MSW. Moving from south to west coast, opened my eyes to the breath of diversity and cultural expansion.

After practicing for 12 years, I transitioned to academia at Oakwood University. I continued an active clinical practice. Later, I returned to California and joined the faculty at California State East Bay. I served as a field faculty, director of field, and assistant professor. I continued practicing in the area of medical social work. I completed my doctoral degree at Walden University. I also served as a CSWE site visitor. This experience strengthened my understanding of the importance of the work of CSWE as we support the colleges and universities who train the next generations of social workers.

My vision for CSWE and social work education is to enhance the quality work that has already been done, by presenting current evidence-based practice modalities. I also understand the growing area of online social work education, and work as a contributing faculty for my alma mater Walden University.



***James Akin, MSW***

*Executive Director, NASW Florida Chapter, Tallahassee, FL*

My purpose in running for the CSWE Board of Directors is to represent social work practice.

I bring to the Board 47 years of social work practice. This includes direct practice, social work education, and social work association management. My skills include problem solving, use of committees and task forces in moving ahead organizational goals and visions and excellent communication skills. I previously served on the CSWE Board in this position, the National Nominating Committee, and the Council on Conferences and Faculty Development.

My vision for CSWE and social work education is outlined below:

- To strengthen the relationships between CSWE and historically Black colleges and universities in increasing the numbers of students entering the profession.
- To work with agencies and organizations in developing and increasing paid practicums for social work students.
- To increase the number and quality of social work jobs available to graduating students.
- To promote social work faculty research to agencies, organizations, state and federal governments.

I look forward to serving on the Board and ask for your support. Thank you.

# 2021 ELECTION CANDIDATES



CSWE National Nominating Committee

## Graduate Program Representative

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**Anthony Hill, PhD, MSW**

*Department Chair, Graduate Program Director, and Associate Professor, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC*

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the National Nominating Committee as a graduate faculty representative. I am committed to identifying diverse and highly qualified candidates for leadership roles in CSWE. I have a demonstrated track record of progressive leadership experience that has prepared me well to carry out the National Nominating Committee's charge. I am currently the chair and graduate program director for the Department of Social Work at Winthrop University. In this role, I oversaw the successful launch of Winthrop's online MSW program. Additionally, I am an active member of the 2019–2020 CSWE Program Directors Leadership Academy.

Currently, I serve on the Commission for Membership and Professional Development. I have also served in myriad leadership positions with the National Association of Social Workers, including regional representative on the national Board of Directors, chapter president, member of the national finance committee, and the national human resource committee chair. These experiences will serve me well as a graduate representative on the National Nominating Committee. My vision for CSWE and social work education is to draw from our rich history, learn from past experiences, and be well-positioned to train the next generation of diverse, competent, and ethical social workers. Social workers who are entrepreneurial in addressing societal problems and value diversity and inclusion.



**Joan Pittman, PhD, MSW**

*Graduate Program Director and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Maryland, School of Social Work, College Park, MD*

I am honored to be considered for a leadership position at CSWE as the graduate program representative on the National Nominating Committee (NNC). I decided to run for this position because I want to contribute to excellence and innovation in social work education. Since 2013, I have been the director of University of Maryland's off-campus MSW program. In this role, I have been involved in all aspects of leading and managing a MSW program and have successfully grown the program to an enrollment of 170 students.

Additionally, I have 15 years of experience teaching and conducting research in social work education and have specialized in the areas of clinical social work methods, group work, interprofessional education, and global social work. I believe one of my strongest assets is the ability to collaborate with others to achieve goals, a critical skill that I would bring to the NNC.

Additionally, the range of experiences that I've had in social work education and practice will be helpful in selecting of a diverse group of CSWE leadership candidates that represent different roles and areas

of expertise. CSWE is critically important to the future of the social work profession. CSWE encourages innovation and professional development, develops priorities and research initiatives, and upholds our professional standards.

As we look toward the future, I think social work educators will need to have an increased focus on the strategic use of technology in education and practice, innovative ideas for expanding the reach of the profession to include a more diverse workforce, and increasing our emphasis on collaborating with community members and other professions to solve complex problems. Thank you for considering me for this important leadership role.

## Undergraduate Program Representative (Open Position 1 of 2)

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***Daniel Freedman, PhD, MSW***

*Undergraduate Program Director and Associate Professor, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA*

I appreciate the nomination for participating on the National Nominating Committee (NNC). My interest for serving as an undergraduate program representative on the NNC is driven by my interest in social work education, and a profound desire to have input toward identifying those who can provide vision and leadership to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The identification of suitable leaders is always important in social work education as they help shape the programs that prepare students to advance economic, environmental, and social justice.

The skills I bring into this position include my in-depth knowledge of social work curriculum, ability to perform as an exemplary academic administrator, wealth of practice experience that enables me to work collaboratively and effectively with others, and familiarity with the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. Further, I identify myself as a lifelong learner, as a social worker educator that is dedicated to professional improvement.

Social work education is a dynamic endeavor, it must be prepared to pivot constantly to best develop students who can address the complex, often global issues of the 21st century. As an entity central to this vision, CSWE needs continued leadership from those who are not only exceptionally talented, but also passionate about justice and preparing students for greatness. I hope my role on the NNC will contribute to this vision.



***Debra Woody, PhD, MSW***

*Senior Associate Dean and Associate Professor, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX*

I bring to the CSWE National Nominating Committee years of experience across a broad range of social work education. I have worked for a social work program in a private Christian university and now, a large state research university. In addition to teaching BSW, MSW, and PhD courses, I have held administrative positions as field director, PhD director, associate dean for student and academic affairs, and now senior associate dean. I also direct a research center on addiction and recovery, which allows me to remain grounded in the link between practice, education, research, and community involvement.

The social work profession is in a position to do more to eradicate racism, discrimination, and promote inclusion. With the most recent incidents of systemic racism, discrimination, and health disparities, we must have leadership that approaches the work of CSWE with an inclusive vision. In addition, the social work profession continues to evolve as best practices and empirically based findings continue to emerge. CSWE, as the leading body of social work education, has to continue to progress forward by adjusting student outcome competencies and curriculum policies and procedures to train social workers who are current in their knowledge and skills to meet the needs of those we assist in an ever-changing society.

With my expansive experiences and understanding of social work education, I will work through the National Nominating Committee to ensure a slate of leaders that can help us push forward.

## Undergraduate Program Representative (Open Position 2 of 2)

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**Thomas Felke, PhD, MSW**

*Department Chair and Associate Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, FL*

It is an honor to be considered as a candidate for the CSWE National Nominating Committee. Over the past several years, I have had the opportunity to serve in several leadership roles in social work education including with CSWE. These positions include BSW program director and chair of the Department of Social Work at Florida Gulf Coast University, commissioner with the CSWE Commission on Global Social Work Education, treasurer for the Florida Association of Deans & Directors of Social Work Programs, as well as program director representative and acting vice-president for the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors. Several of these roles have provided me with occasions to identify and select candidates for various employment or service opportunities.

These experiences have also provided me with opportunities to engage other social workers holding leadership roles. I have learned much from these individuals in terms of approaches to leadership, communication styles, and perspectives on shared governance. I hope to bring this knowledge and experience to the CSWE National Nominating Committee. The past year has shown the need to continually expand our vision beyond our traditional notions of social work practice. Our continued work on racial, social, economic, and environmental justice requires us to consider collaborative opportunities while also addressing those agencies and entities that prevent us from being successful in our endeavors. Our leadership must be reflective of this ideal so we can craft the necessary models and processes to effectively support academic social work programs. I feel it is important to exemplify professionalism, integrity, and transparency in order to encourage future social work leaders to seek out opportunities for leadership.



**Susan Nakaoka, PhD, MSW**

*Undergraduate Program Director and Assistant Professor, California State University, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA*

I am running for the National Nominating Committee because I believe in the power of social work education to answer the current call toward racial and intersectional social justice. The committee should be a catalyst for facilitating CSWE leadership that will be representative of our faculty and student populations while centering a commitment to racial, gender, economic, and social justice. Although we can be proud of the history of activism and social change that is the foundation of our profession, we must also work to dismantle the systems that do not serve all of our communities. CSWE can be at the forefront of this movement by engaging leadership that is passionate about this type of emancipatory change.

I have over 18 year of experience in social work education at both the master's and bachelor's levels at public and private institutions. Although I'm currently an assistant professor and director of California's largest BSW program, I spent 8 years as a field director, so I understand the need for our leadership to possess the skills and expertise to serve all components of social work curriculum. For 15 years, I have focused my work on the integration of critical race theory pedagogy into the implicit and explicit social work curriculum. I firmly believe that this approach could transform social work education to equip our students and their communities to achieve healing, liberation, and empowerment.

I believe I can serve the National Nominating Committee by expanding upon a framework of diversity and inclusion to ensure our slate of candidates include leaders that are committed to transformational social change that meets our current political moment. This work includes upholding the experiences of underrepresented groups; centering the voices of Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color; and dismantling those systems that do not serve all of our communities. Thank you for considering my nomination.

## Graduate Faculty Representative (Open Position 1 of 2)

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**Binta Alleyne-Green, PhD, MSW**

*Associate Professor, Fordham University, Bronx, NY*

During this past semester, we have all entered a new reality—one that requires openness to trying new things, while maintaining the high professional standards that have guided social workers for decades. I am running for the National Nominating Committee because I believe that as social workers, we can be called to serve our profession, as well as our clients. The Nominating Committee has a role in ensuring that our accrediting body is advised by a diverse group of CSWE members. We all benefit from a professional organization that is led by people who bring their lived experiences, both in their personal lives and their professional lives, to the Council and the committees they serve. As we move forward into our new normal, CSWE should guide our educational programs that encompass both the tried and true as well as the new and novel. I have served on advisory boards for over 20 years and have experience recruiting candidates for volunteer positions. As a BSW program director I understand the role of, and the importance of, advisory boards that are reflective of diversity and experience, and I believe that will make me an ideal person for this position.



**Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak, PhD, MSW**

*Associate Professor, West Chester University, West Chester, PA*

As a member of the National Nominating Committee, my commitment is to shape the CSWE Board through a feminist, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist lens.

The skills I bring are based on my national leadership experience and understanding of CSWE's governance structure. My 6 years on the Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education (Women's Council) provided opportunity to serve as the co-chair and nominations chair. Under my leadership, the Women's Council installed two new awards now given annually at APM. While I do not claim sole responsibility for these achievements, my community organizing skills were necessary to solicit and incorporate the ideas of a diverse Council into recognizing the achievements of feminists in social work education. While serving on the Commission on Diversity and Social & Economic Justice, I was engaged in drafting the mission statement and the Carl A. Scott Memorial Lecture selection committee. In my role as department chair and MSW program director, I was actively involved in NADD and served on their National Nominating Committee.

My vision for CSWE and social work education is informed by my scholarship on the intersection of social justice and human rights within social work education. The impact of the public health crisis, while yet to be fully realized, is an opportunity to shape social work education in preparation for a postpandemic global society. A human rights-based approach to teaching and advising that promotes success and social justice for vulnerable students will undoubtedly be necessary.

I am grateful for my leadership opportunities, thus far, in CSWE and wish to continue to serve our organization and you. During these non-normal times, I hope you and your loved ones are well and appreciate your consideration in electing me to the CSWE National Nominating Committee.

## Graduate Faculty Representative (Open Position 2 of 2)

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**Jason Ostrander, PhD, MSW**

*Assistant Professor, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT*

I am running to be the graduate faculty representative on CSWE's Nominating Committee because this position enjoys a vital platform to engage in pedagogical reflection and so presents an opportunity that I would fully embrace. Apparent in my assistant professor and community researcher advocate roles, the need for this reflection is also understood from my ongoing education, which includes MSW and PhD degrees from University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

I bring a diverse array of skills to this position and describe my role as a scholar activist dedicated to preparing the next generation of social workers. I have worked nearly 20 years directly in social work education and in local, state, and federal political spheres to address inequities in policy. In the academy, I have worked diligently creating campaign and policy experiences, courses, and field placements for student learning. In addition, I have participated in national meetings of CSWE and NASW for approximately 10 years.

My vision for CSWE is to identify, recruit, and advocate for leaders who are committed to integrated practice. These leaders—who embrace diverse educational modalities and address head-on the inequities found in legislated and culturally perpetuated policies—can debate and create pedagogical guidelines that can inform a shared justice language to equip, guide, and support anti-oppressive practice among social work educators, students, and generations of practitioners going forward.



**Judith Rocha, PhD, LCSW**

*Graduate Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL*

I currently serve as the interim master of social work (MSW) program director at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) since October 1, 2020. Prior to this appointment, I successfully held the position of MSW director of field education and assistant professor in the same program. Working at NEIU, a public institution in Chicago, IL, has elevated my commitment to the social work field and our profession because I get to more intimately see the level of talent that our students bring to their educational journey. The critical consciousness their lived experiences have afforded them, along with the quality instruction of our progressive faculty and instructors in the classroom and field, are surely a formula for developing the agents of change we will see for years to come.

As part of my vision to continue supporting the field and social work programs nationally, I decided to form part of the National Nominating Committee as the graduate faculty representative. As an educator, researcher, and licensed clinical social worker, I have been able to facilitate critical thinking focused on social justice, carry out community-engaged studies, and provide culturally responsive social work practice and social action. I bring knowledge and professional values that have come from a place of living marginalization firsthand due to poverty, racism, and xenophobia; faulty immigration policies; unaffordable housing; health disparities; lack of health-care access; and under-resourced public education, among other challenges. Additionally, having lived in Chicago ethnic enclaves my entire life and now understanding the many implications that policies have on quality of life, I have a professional and personal commitment to further inform practice, policy, and research education in a manner that is anti-oppressive, culturally responsive, and sensitive to the diverse elements of individuals, families, and communities.